

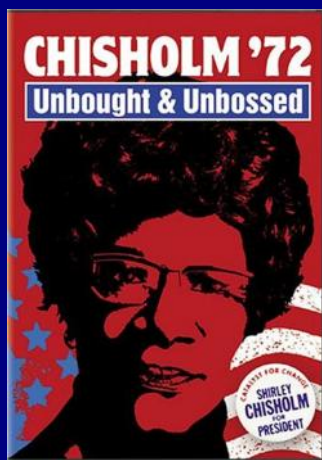


Tiyende Pamodzi



**The U.S. Mission to
Zambia:
Promoting Peace,
Health and
Development Through
Partnerships with the
Zambian People**

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March 2009



Inside: Highlights from trips to Central and Copperbelt Provinces

A Message From Ambassador Donald Booth

The past several weeks have afforded me two opportunities for official trips up-country, one to Central Province and one to the Copperbelt (*see pages 2-3*). I find it invigorating and rewarding to be able to interact with our partners across the country and see the progress that is being made by Zambians and Americans working together.

I was particularly impressed by the efforts of the many women I met on my travels. From businesswomen and caretakers to teachers and dairy farmers, women are embracing their important role in addressing Zambia's problems and moving the country to middle-income status.



We at the U.S. Mission are committed to ensuring that women everywhere are treated as equals and afforded dignity and respect. To mark Women's History Month in March, we will be celebrating female contributions to history, while encouraging discussion on the issues facing women today. Insufficient girl-child education, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS are just a sampling of the challenges that prevent women from reaching their full potential; but what I have seen recently is that smart, strong women are determined to prevail and make a brighter future for their daughters—and sons.

Getting Centered: A Trip Through Central Province

Central Province was the destination for Ambassador Donald Booth's first provincial tour since arriving in Zambia near the end of 2008. Accompanied by USAID Director Melissa Williams and other Mission staff, the ambassador spent three days exploring the province, meeting with the permanent secretary and the district commissioners for Mkushi and Serenje; chatting on-air with community radio stations in Mkushi and Kabwe; and visiting U.S.-funded projects.

At the Mpima Dairy Farmers Herd Health Plan & Milk Collection Center, dairy farmers explained how the Herd Health Plan has helped them reduce diseases among their cattle and improve milk yields. Among the group of 30 initial participants in the program, each of whom started with two cows, some have increased their herds nearly five-fold.

Other stops included the Mahatma Ghandi Memorial Clinic in Kabwe and the Nkolonga Rural Health Center, where thousands of Zambians have received testing, counseling and treatment services. During a visit to Kamuchanga Community School, Mission staff met with parents who took on the challenge of starting a school for their children and observed a class participating in the Interactive Radio Instruction program.

Before heading back to Lusaka, the ambassador was able to emphasize the Mission's dedication to education and health by awarding two grants on behalf of the Embassy, for the Kabwe Municipal Council Public Library and the Central Action on HIV/AIDS.



"I want to be a model for this place, because I'm doing what men can do and I promised to myself never to give up but to go forward."



Photos, clockwise from top right: A dairy farmer shows her pride at increasing her herd to nine cows; Ambassador Booth presents Maranatha Community Radio Station Manager Laurian Haangala with books on President Obama and investigative journalism; a mother brings her infant for a check-up at the Nkolonga Rural Health Center; students at Kamuchanga Community School celebrate a lesson well learned. For more pictures, [visit our Facebook page](#).

Keeping Current: Visiting the Copperbelt

Continuing his outreach to the provinces, Ambassador Booth embarked on a three-day familiarization tour of Copperbelt Province in February. Ambassador Booth visited the Copperbelt to get a feel for what was happening in the economic hub of Zambia and to look at projects funded by the U.S. government. The United States, through PEPFAR partners, has spent millions of dollars on various health, education and economic projects on the Copperbelt.



The U.S. Mission delegation visited the Tropical Diseases Research Center, a tuberculosis laboratory renovated in partnership with PEPFAR and CDC; met ten orphans and vulnerable children from Chimwemwe High School who received scholarships through PEPFAR/CHANGES II; and visited the PEPFAR/USAID-funded ward for counseling and testing at Kitwe General Hospital.

As the mining center of Zambia, a visit to the Copperbelt would not have been complete without a visit to a mine. Mopani Copper Mines, one of the biggest mines in Zambia, were happy to give the ambassador and his entourage a tour of the copper smelter and a memorable three-hour tour approximately 580 meters underground. The Copperbelt tour also included courtesy calls to government officials, meetings with trade union representatives and the business community, and visits to Zambia Catholic University, Sub Saharan Gemstone and ZAMEFA, an American investment manufacturing copper cables. Both trips provided the ambassador and staff the opportunity to witness exciting projects and experience Zambia's hospitality.



Photos, clockwise from top center: Ambassador Booth inspects copper cables at ZAMEFA; a teacher and student at Chimwemwe High School discuss the positive impact of scholarships; greeting health workers; the U.S. Mission delegation heads down, down, down into the mines. On the cover: A woman receives her antiretroviral medication at the Nkolonga Rural Health Center. For more pictures, [visit our Facebook page](#).

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AIRC Corner: Black History Month Poetry at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Students from Namununga High School and Lusaka High School let their creative side shine through recently by celebrating Black History Month with poetry. Four students from each high school presented an original poem they had written about a prominent African American, ranging from President Obama and Martin Luther King, Jr., to Oprah Winfrey and Wilma Rudolph. Along with Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Koplovsky, Deputy Public Affairs Officer Sara Veldhuizen Stealy and the IRC staff, the audience comprised fellow students, teachers, Curriculum Development Centre officials and members of civil society and the press. [Visit our Web site to hear audio files of the students reciting their poems.](#)

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gone his memory will
live on and we will
carry on his dream
to the world with
the delicate dreams.

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Like Wilma And No tie, Confidence in me, ... just Brings my world together
Yess!! My poem just prevent me from achieving my goals.
God bless women like grew legs and is running out of Steam saying---
loved and cheered for..... Because---
a Beautiful Black History Experience. With this they make my life to become.

Obama hope for the World

Barack Obama is my hero because he is my **inspiration**,
He has fought complex and **desperation**
No matter what the world thought about him, he still gathered
courage with **optimism**
It is a big lesson to those who are staggering with **pessimism**

From top: Mubanga Chitalu's poem about Martin Luther King, Jr.; Mohammed Saabir Patel recites his poem about boxing great Mohammed Ali; Jasper Zulu's poem about track star Wilma Rudolph; Arshad Issa's poem about President Barack Obama

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